

# Survey of Care Experienced Students at Scottish Colleges

Dear student

## **Please help to make college life better for care-experienced students**

If you are a care-experienced student currently enrolled at a college in Scotland, please tell us about your experiences of getting to college and being at college.

Whether your experience was good or not so good, you can help us to make improvements to the information and support for all care-experienced students.

A care-experienced student is someone who is or was at any time in the past 'looked after' or in the care of a local authority (e.g. in foster care, kinship care, or residential care, or adopted, or received 'home supervision' from social work).

The survey is completely anonymous. You can read more about the survey in the Participant Information Sheet.

**After submitting your response, you can choose to enter a prize draw to win £100.**

**The survey should only take 15 minutes to complete. It is in three parts: first some questions about the process of coming to College, then some questions about being at College, and finally some questions about you.**

Linda O'Neill & Graham Connelly, [CELCIS](#).

>

I have read the Participant Information sheet and I understand that by proceeding to the survey, I have given my consent to take part. [tick box]

I understand the definition of 'care experienced student' and this applies to me. [tick box]

I know that I can decide not to answer any question. [tick box]

[Proceed to survey]

>

## Coming to College

Q1

Before college, what were you doing?

[Tick only one answer]

At school

Working

Unemployed – seeking work

Unemployed – not seeking work

Training Programme

Activity Agreement

Volunteering

Other [Write in]

>

Q2

Is your home location:

Scotland

England, or Wales, or Northern Ireland

Other [Write in]

>

Q3

Is this your first time at college?

Yes

No, I completed another college course in the past

No, I started a college course in the past but did not complete it

>

Q4

Did you receive help about going to college/choosing your course/

No, I did it on my own

Yes, from [tick all that apply]

A teacher

Skills Development Scotland (Careers) Adviser

Relative

Friend

Other [Write in]

>

Q5

Was your selection of college influenced by the support the college offered as a 'corporate parent' (e.g. on its website or in its Corporate Parenting Plan)?

No

Yes

If Yes, could you say in what way(s)? [Write in]

>

Q6

Did you use the Propel website ([www.propel.org.uk](http://www.propel.org.uk)) to help plan your move to college?

Yes

No

>

Q7

Did you tell the college you were care experienced?

[Tick only one answer]

I was not asked

No, I wanted to keep this private

Yes, I declared my care experience as part of the application process

Yes, I declared my care experience once my place was confirmed

Yes, I declared my care experience during my course

[Supplementary questions for Yes responses]

Did someone from the college get in touch with you before you started your course?

Yes

No

Q8

Was declaring your care background a positive experience?

Yes

No

Please tell us about your experience. [Open ended text box]

>

Q9

Did you have any difficulties with your transition to college related to your care experience? If so, please tell us a little about them and whether they were resolved. [Open ended text box]

>

## Being at College

Q10

Where are you currently living while attending college?

At home with family

In kinship care/with extended family

In foster care

In residential care

In supported accommodation arranged by a local authority

In a student residence

In my own house or flat

Other [Write in]

>

Q11

Have you had to move accommodation unexpectedly during your course?

Yes

No

>

Q12

**This part of the survey uses a table of questions. For each row, please tick only one box.**

I am doing well at college so far

I feel confident about my academic abilities

When I need help with college work there is someone I can go to

I feel part of the college community

I am coping well with my finances

I have no worries about accommodation

I have a good support network

[5-point Likert scale: Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree]

>

Q13

Have you accessed any of the following college services? Tick all that apply.

A mentor

Counselling/Wellbeing Service

Disability/Enabling/Additional Support Needs Service

Equality and Diversity Service

Students' Association

Financial Advice Service

Other [write in]

>

Q14

Have you received any of the following financial supports? [Tick all that apply]

Care Experienced Students' Bursary (£8,100 per year)

Weekly Bursary from college (£202 per week)

Dependant's Allowance

Additional Support for Learning Allowance

Expenses for travel to and from college

Help with child care expenses

Help from the Discretionary Fund

Funding from a local authority other than for accommodation

Other [Write in]

[If ticked any box lead to a supplementary question – otherwise move on to next question]

How was your experience of applying for funds? [Open-ended text box]

>

Q15

Do you do paid work during term-time alongside your studies?

No

Yes, I work occasionally

Yes, I work regularly - typically less than 10 hours a week

Yes, I work regularly - typically between 10 and 20 hours per week

Yes, I work regularly - typically more than 20 hours per week

>

Q16

Have you ever thought about leaving college?

Yes

No

Please tell us anything you want about your experience of college, whether good or bad and any difficulties you have faced.

[Open-ended text box]

>

Q17

What are your plans at the end of this college year/session?

Don't know yet

Continue to the next year/stage of my course

Start another college course (at this or another college)

Progress to university

Employment

Other [write in]

## About You

Q18

What is your age?

Under 16

16-17

18-19

20-25

26-30

31+

>

Q19

What gender are you?

Female

Male

Non-binary

Not listed [Please write in]

Prefer not to say

>

Q20

What is your ethnic group?

White

Asian

African, Caribbean or Black

Other [Please write in]

>

Q21

Do you consider yourself to have a disability, including mental health issues, or additional support needs?

Yes

No

Rather not say

What is the nature of your disability or disabilities or additional support needs? [Text box]

>

Q22

[For the following three questions could we have hyperlinks to definitions for the terms in parenthesis?]

Are you currently a 'looked after' young person?

Yes

No

>

Q23

Are you in a 'continuing care' placement?

Yes

No

>

Q24

Are you currently receiving 'leaving care' services?

Yes

Entitled to leaving care services but I don't receive any

No

>

Q25

Which college are you studying at?

Ayrshire College

Borders College

City of Glasgow College

Dumfries and Galloway College

Dundee and Angus College

Edinburgh College

Fife College

Forth Valley College

Glasgow Clyde College

Glasgow Kelvin College

New College Lanarkshire College

Newbattle Abbey College

North East Scotland College

South Lanarkshire College

UHI College [Write in name]

West College Scotland

West Lothian College

Other [Write in]

>

Q26

What are you studying / name of programme? [Write in]

>

Q27

When did you first enrol in this programme?

Month [write in]      Year [write in]

>

Q28

What is your level of study?

Return to study, college preparation or similar

National Certificate (NC)

Higher National Certificate (HNC)

Higher National Diploma (HND) or Diploma in Higher Education

Degree or Honours Degree

Other [Write in]

>

Q29

What stage of your course are you in?

First year

Second year

Other [Write in]

>

Q30

What is your mode of attendance?

Full-time (typically more than 15 hours per week)

Part-time

>

Q31

These are all our questions but if you would like to add some comments, about being care experienced at college, or about the survey, please feel free to write these in the box below which will expand as you write. [Open ended text box]

>

[End of Survey]

[Click to submit responses]

>

[Either]

I want to enter the prize draw for a £100 voucher. \*

Please provide an email address or mobile number we can use to contact you if you win. Please be assured that we will not store your contact details for any purpose other than the draw and your survey responses will remain anonymous.

[Insert details]

>

Thank you very much for your time in completing this questionnaire. We appreciate your help.

Exit survey

[Or]

I don't want to enter the prize draw.

Thank you very much for your time in completing this questionnaire. We appreciate your help.

Exit survey